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# Agents of Change

The impact of Redeemer students and alumni



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CHRIST



Dr. Justin Cooper, President

“We have really experienced redemption in our son's life; Redeemer has lived up to its name. It has given him a focus and purpose, and now he has the discipline and drive he needs ...”

I would like to share a couple of stories that show how Redeemer's mission comes to expression in the lives of our students and graduates. The other day I had an interesting conversation with the parent of one of our graduates. Beaming with pride and thankfulness, he related to me how his son was doing.

This student had struggled at times to get through his program of studies and was finally able to graduate. Now, having gained both confidence and experience, he was enrolled in a master's program and working toward his certification as a high school teacher.

His father summed it up this way. “We have really experienced redemption in our son's life; Redeemer has lived up to its name. It has given him a focus and purpose, and now he has the discipline and drive he needs to prepare to be a Christian teacher.”

We always affirm that Christian university education is crucial to shaping Christian leaders who can go on to engage our culture in distinctive and competent ways. His story gave me a new appreciation for the important role that such an education plays in equipping our students to be servants and ambassadors of Christ.

And speaking of being an ambassador for Christ, here's another story of a graduate who has found a creative way to serve her Lord. Betty Broersma graduated from Redeemer in 1988 with a major in psychology and minors in art and social work and went on to take further training in art therapy.

After practicing in this field for some years, she hit upon a new approach to reaching out in our City with the healing power and love of Jesus Christ. Hamilton is not among the largest of Canada's cities but certainly has its share of social issues, poverty and homelessness.

In this context she developed an outreach to our street-involved youth through a studio ministry called RE-create Outreach Art Studio. Over time, this ministry has become not only an avenue to help these young people work through their issues and build relationships but also to develop confidence and self-respect as their best work is shown in various gallery exhibitions.

The impact of her efforts came home to me in a powerful way when I heard that one of these young people, even though he was living in a shelter at the time, took a portion of what he received for the sale of his artwork and gave it back to the ministry that had helped him.

Praise God for the unexpected ways that Christian university education is shaping a new generation of servant leaders who are creatively and competently engaging our culture with the wisdom, love and mercy of Christ. Please join us in praying that the Lord will continue to use Redeemer to be faithful in carrying out this mission, one student and one graduating class at a time. ■



## WHAT'S INSIDE

In the centre of the magazine, you will find an insert that shows some of the different ways that Redeemer University College remains engaged in a world that extends far beyond its Ancaster campus. We hope that you will be encouraged by seeing how your generous support is making a difference, not only in the lives of Redeemer students, but also in the communities that they return to after graduation.

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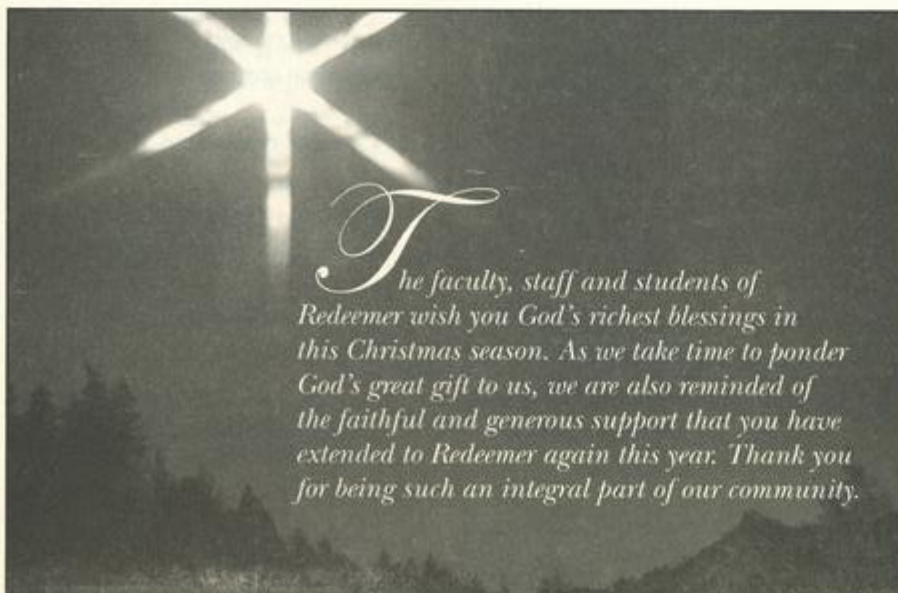


**REDEEMER**  
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Redeemer University College is a Christian liberal arts and science university, offering courses and programs leading to a bachelor's degree. Redeemer serves over 800 students on its 86-acre campus on the outskirts of Hamilton.

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*The faculty, staff and students of Redeemer wish you God's richest blessings in this Christmas season. As we take time to ponder God's great gift to us, we are also reminded of the faithful and generous support that you have extended to Redeemer again this year. Thank you for being such an integral part of our community.*





Before the serious work begins, first-year students are welcomed to Redeemer for a series of community-building events during Orientation Week.



## Enrolment returns to record levels

The number of students at Redeemer University College is up again this year. For the academic year 2008-09, there are 866 students at Redeemer, which equals 826 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. Last year, Redeemer served 885 students, which calculated to 818 FTE. The present figure of 826 equals the previous record enrolment level set in 2006.

Redeemer's Recruitment staff is already looking to September '09. Beyond the regular activities of visiting high schools (almost 400 between September and December), participating in university fairs (74, across Canada and the US, plus 6 in Asia) and hosting campus visit day events (7 planned days, but numerous individual visits), Redeemer has also participated in Canada's first virtual fair, hosted by *Maclean's* magazine.

The fair was set-up to resemble the Ontario University Fair held in Toronto—minus the high cost of booths, printed materials and travel. Three of Redeemer's University Representatives, located throughout Ontario, were on-line in hotel rooms ready to chat with potential students. The event resulted in 153 visits to Redeemer's booth: 124 from prospective students and 29 from other participating public university representatives. Reps were able to participate in 38 chat sessions and received several requests for more information.

The site – [www.macleans.ca/oncampusfair](http://www.macleans.ca/oncampusfair) – will be active until January 2009, and Redeemer's Student Rep Team will be on-hand Monday and Tuesday evenings to chat on-line with prospective students. Prospective students, their parents and their families are invited to "drop by" for a visit! ■

### Some other numbers on the 2008-09 student body:

- 231 Full-time students who are new to Redeemer
- 34 Percentage of new students who did not start directly after high school; they either took a year off before starting, are mature students, transferred from other colleges or universities, etc.,
- 32 Full-time students in the Bachelor of Education program
- 32 Part-time students in the Bachelor of Education program
- 8 Countries represented
- 9 Provinces represented (Newfoundland and Labrador not included)
- 44 Denominations represented in student body
- 17.74 Average age of those who came directly from high school



# President Cooper announces intention to step down

On Friday, September 26, Dr. Justin Cooper announced to the Board of Governors that he will not be seeking a fourth term as President of Redeemer University College. Dr. Cooper, who has been with Redeemer even before the institution's inception in 1982, will step down when his current term concludes on June 30, 2010. By that time, he will have served Redeemer for 30 years, including the last 16 as President.

Dr. Cooper notes two principal reasons for his decision: "Many of Redeemer's senior administrators will be retiring from 2010 on; I believe it is very important that a new President be able to build that new team. Another factor is my sense that the Lord is leading me to take my passion for

the mission of Christian higher education and to explore greater involvement in promoting this mission in other avenues of service that the Lord will open up."

Ray Pennings, Chair of Redeemer's Board of Governors, notes that Dr. Cooper's vision, commitment and perseverance have been instrumental in Redeemer's development. "Redeemer was established and accredited in an environment not friendly to faith-based institutions and it is not an exaggeration to say that, humanly speaking, Dr. Cooper's role has been pivotal. His evident passion for Christian education and dogged persistence that did not stop when obstacles were raised have served Redeemer well and he will leave big shoes to fill."

The Board of Governors has put into place a succession review committee, which will help identify the characteristics that will be sought in future administrators. A Search Committee for a new President will be announced in February 2009. In the meantime, Dr. Cooper will finish his term with an ambitious agenda: "There is much that can be done in the next two years which will enhance our mission through program development, including continuing education, and will strengthen our religious identity, internal decision making, financial vitality, institutional profile and national reputation. I look forward to continuing to work with the Board, staff and faculty to reach these goals." ■

## Students give Redeemer another



In conjunction with recruitment efforts, enrolment also depends on how many students return each year. Redeemer's retention rates have remained strong over recent years and increased this past year. Retention often reflects how satisfied students are with the education they are receiving, something that was recognized in *The Globe & Mail's* University Report Card, released on October 23, 2008.

For the second consecutive year, Redeemer University College earned an "A" in Overall Student Satisfaction. The *Globe's* seventh annual survey of student satisfaction, produced in partnership with The Strategic Counsel, graded 55 universities on a number of key criteria by surveying 43,400 Canadian university students about their experiences.

In the survey, Redeemer scored high marks in a variety of core areas (see below). The results are encouraging since the information comes from the people who really matter – the students. "We are very pleased students rank Redeemer so highly in so many important areas," says Richard Wikkerink, Registrar and Senior Director of Student Development at Re-

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deemer. "It is especially gratifying that students are so satisfied with the quality of education they receive and with our campus atmosphere. Those results are a testament to the work of our faculty and support staff in creating a Christian academic community." For more information about the Survey, please visit: [www.redeemer.ca/reportcard](http://www.redeemer.ca/reportcard). ■

CRITERIA	GRADE	CRITERIA	GRADE
Quality of education	A+	Quality of teaching	A
Student-Faculty interaction	A+	Ease of course registration	A-
Campus atmosphere	A+	Extracurricular activities	A-
Class sizes	A+	Student services	B+
Overall student satisfaction	A	Campus technology	B+
Student residences	A	Academic reputation	B+
Building and facilities	A	Libraries	B+



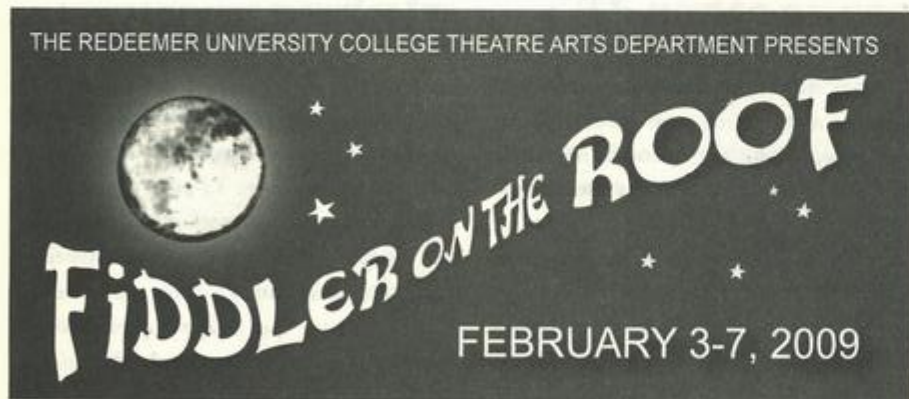
## FROM ANATEVKA TO ANCASTER

The Theatre Arts Department is pleased to bring to Redeemer's Auditorium the much-loved musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, February 3 – 7, 2009.

This is an ambitious project. "It is a pretty massive undertaking," notes Ray Louter, Professor of Theatre Arts and Communications. "Instead of the two Mainstage shows that we normally do each year, we are putting all our focus on this one production. It's something that we've wanted to do for a long time, and we're determined to make it a wonderful experience."

One of the unique aspects of this Theatre Arts production is the use of members of the wider Redeemer community. Redeemer's Sinfonia, under the direction of Associate Professor of Music Dr. Paul Thorlakson is performing all the music, costumes and set designs are being overseen by Adjunct Instructor David Antscherl, the poster was designed by Assistant Professor of Art Chris Cuthill, and the cast and crew feature Redeemer students, alumni, staff and faculty. "I think that many in the Redeemer community, especially alumni, will be interested in knowing that Dr. Doug Loney (Associate Professor of English and Dean of Arts) will be playing the lead role of Tevye," notes Sharon Klassen, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts and the producer for *Fiddler*.

Redeemer's Continuing Education Department will be offering a number of *Fiddler*-related workshops during the afternoon of February 7, prior to the show. Sessions on Middle European history, musical theatre, choreography and art are being prepared. More information on the workshops will be posted at [www.redeemer.ca/ConEd](http://www.redeemer.ca/ConEd) as it becomes available.



Preview: February 3 at 7:30 pm

Matinee: February 4 at Noon

February 5 – 7 at 7:30 pm

Dinner and Show: February 7 at 5:30 pm (\$35)

Tickets: \$7 (Preview and Matinee); \$13, Senior/Student \$11. Available on-line at [TicketWindow.ca](http://TicketWindow.ca) or by calling the Box Office: 905.648.2139 x4211

## ICAO approves courses for designation

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (ICAO) recently approved four new accounting courses at Redeemer as satisfying the requirements for the Chartered Accountant (CA) designation. On November 13, Redeemer's Senate, the body that governs academic policy, also approved these courses.

Redeemer now offers all of the courses that are required for the CA designation. Professor Susan Van Weelden, Chair of the Business Department, reflected on this milestone: "Redeemer alumni have achieved a strong record of success in pursuing the CA, Certified Management Accountant and Certified General Accountant designations. However, to earn the CA designation, students needed to take courses off-campus during or after studies at Redeemer. Students can now enjoy the convenience of staying at Redeemer. Together with the option of pursuing a Co-op Program, the full complement of accounting courses means that Redeemer offers a strong accounting program to students who want a Christ-centered education. These new courses also enable us to better serve the local, regional, and national businesses who hire our graduates."

The Business Department has now launched an application to have Accounting Co-op placements approved as part of the CA designation. The co-op application may not be reviewed by the Institute until February, but Prof. Van Weelden has been assured by the ICAO that students entering their first co-op placement this January would be grand-fathered in, should approval be granted. In the past, students have had half of their co-op experience retroactively recognized towards the CA experience requirements. ■



# Foundation's programs to be assumed by Redeemer



In a ruling that ends a long legal battle, the Supreme Court of Canada, in a 4-3 split decision, has dismissed the Redeemer

Foundation's appeal of its case against the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The Foundation had challenged the way the CRA had collected information in their reassessment of donors to the Foundation's Forgivable Loan Program (FLP) in 2001 and 2002.

The decision will also mark the end of the Foundation as a separate entity. Although the FLP was only one activity of the Foundation, the administrative fees raised by the program funded many of its other initiatives. The Foundation's Board has recommended to its Membership (both the Board and the members are independent of Redeemer University College) that the Foundation cease operations at the end of the calendar year and that the Foundation's charitable status with CRA be revoked. The Foundation's members will vote on the proposal at the Foundation's Annual General Meeting in early December.

The Foundation's other programs, such as the Leadership and Academic Achievement Scholarship program, will be assumed by Redeemer University College and will continue uninterrupted this year. "All of our existing obligations will be met, and we look forward to announcing new plans in the near future," says Bill van Staaldhuizen, Executive Director of the Foundation.

There is a strong sense of optimism moving forward notes van Staaldhuizen. "The Foundation Board has already been working at identifying new opportunities for those who seek to support the original aim of the Foundation – raising funds to support scholarships and other forms of financial assistance to students at Redeemer. We look forward to seeing what new doors the Lord will open through this." ■

## WHAT'S THAT ENVELOPE FOR?

Each year, Redeemer is blessed by the generosity of its supporting community. As the year draws to a close, we would ask that you consider Redeemer as you make decisions about year-end giving. For those with Canadian addresses, we have included a postage-paid envelope in this issue of Images. Please use the form below and enclose it in the envelope provided. You can also give online at [www.redeemer.ca/onlinegiving](http://www.redeemer.ca/onlinegiving).



All gifts received will support Redeemer's Support Our Students Campaign, which provides financial assistance in the form of bursaries, scholarships and on-campus work study positions.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Redeemer and its students.

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Address .....

City .....

Province .....

Postal Code .....

Amount .....

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Expiry Date: .....

Signature: .....

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Caleb Den Ouden is working with nationals such as Kutchie (whom he calls his "African brother") to develop an educational infrastructure in Sierra Leone

# Bringing together the global and the local

Internship in Sierra Leone develops a structure for literacy programs.

Caleb DenOuden, a third-year student from Carrying Place, ON is currently in Sierra Leone, participating in Redeemer University College's fourth internship in the West African country. This student development program is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. Caleb is working with a group of professionals in Sierra Leone to establish a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) called the Association of Language Teaching Professionals of Sierra Leone, a cooperative partnership between the agencies that are rich in resources and the indigenous experts who are working in the field.

The NGO will provide resources and support for people teaching literacy by providing aid in the production of indigenous teaching materials, offering workshops for teacher training, and hosting an annual conference for professionals involved in teaching literacy in Sierra Leone. This association provides a local structure for the literacy development work, which will lead to improvements in continuity and accountability. And the high degree of local involvement and investment is crucial for long-term effectiveness and sustainability.



In addition to his work developing the NGO, Caleb has had the opportunity to help distribute a schoolbook throughout Sierra Leone called *The Crocodile's Reward*. This indigenous folktale, told in the original language (Kuranko) by Yagbe Tarawali and illustrated by Margaret Hofland, has been translated into English by former Redeemer Education professor Dr. Jo Kuyvenhoven.

For some children, this will be the first book that they will read in their own language, based on one of their own stories. Caleb says this of his experience delivering the book to a remote village: *Although the drive was a dangerous experience, the reward of seeing these remote villages was worth it. I met one chief who only spoke Kuranko and Arabic and so Foray, one of my colleagues, translated for me. We approached him while he was sitting on a mat writing Arabic text with a stick and a bowl of ink on a wooden tablet. He told us that bringing the books to the children in the community was like giving farm tools to a farmer without tools. He was so pleased with the book and the fact that somebody bothered to reach such a remote community. We finished in two days but the memory will last forever.* ■



## Breaking the cycle of poverty

This summer, several Redeemer students and alumni participated in the Sea to Sea Bike Tour, a cross-continent bike ride to raise awareness and funds to help break the cycles that keep people poor. More than 200 cyclists participated in at least part of the tour, which began in Seattle, WA and ended in Jersey City, NJ nine weeks later. Peter Kranenburg, a fourth-year pre-seminary student from Mt. Hope, ON describes his experience: "The tour was the trip of a lifetime for me. It was amazing to see God's creation while biking to peaks of over 14,000ft, or racing down mountains at 85km/hr. The people I met, the places I got to see, and the fellowship of Christians from across the continent is something I will never forget."

Redeemer and several local Christian Reformed and Re-



Some of the Redeemer students and alumni at the end of the Sea to Sea Tour (from left): Alex Van Geest '12, Kevin Pasma '06, Christeena Nienhuis '11, Brad Geerlinks, Peter Kranenburg '09, Denise Bentum '08, Jodi Van Dorp '11, Heidi Bentum '11

formed Church of America churches hosted the tour for a night as it made its way through the Ontario portion of the tour. The cyclists set up camp behind Augustine Hall and made use of many of the facilities (including showers). For more information on the Tour, visit [seatosea.org](http://seatosea.org). ■

## Where scholarship, leadership and citizenship meet

### Award winner looks beyond own community

Laura Mainland, a third-year student from Heidelberg, ON, received a prestigious In-Course Millennium Excellence Award from the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation, sponsored by the federal government. Laura is the first Redeemer student to win this particular award, of which only 100 are given across Canada.

Candidates are selected based on their community involvement, leadership abilities, ability to use innovative ideas for new solutions and academic achievement. Laura's application, which included 2 essays, focused on her work with several of the volunteer organizations with which she is involved in Hamilton, such as Kid's Club and Living Rock Ministries. She also serves as the Chair of Student Senate's Spiritual Activities and Services Committee, all the while maintaining an outstanding grade point average.

The In-Course award is valued at \$5,000

for two years. Beyond the award, recipients are also given a \$2,500 grant that they can use towards a service project of their own interest. "I'll be using that money to visit Hilltop University in Nigeria," she says. I've been talking with Richard Wikkerink (Registrar) and Syd Hielema (Chaplain) about maybe expanding programs at Hilltop or perhaps setting up a similar program in South America."

All award winners are also invited to regional and national conferences where they participate in workshops and share ideas with other recipients about bringing innovation and leadership to community problems. "One of the great things for me at these conferences is to share with other university students from across Canada my Redeemer experience," says Laura. Many of the other winners have never heard of



Laura Mainland is congratulated by President Cooper and Jeannette Lodewyks, Director, Financial Aid

Redeemer; but this award is proof of the excellent education, and overall experience, that is available here."

Laura is completing an honours degree in psychology, with minors in mathematics and physical education, and plans on teaching. She also hopes to pursue research in autism through graduate studies in psychology. ■





## NEW ROYALS LOGO UNVEILED

A new era in Redeemer Royals history has arrived! The Redeemer Athletic Department unveiled the new Royals Logo this past September. Quite different from the old logo, which incorporated a King's crown, the new one boasts a lion, an image that is also synonymous with the Royals. The old logo has been around for quite some time and Redeemer is excited to offer a fresh new look.

The Athletic Department is thrilled with the result and is looking forward to the possibilities that may arise with a new look. The new logo can already be seen popping up all over Redeemer's campus, on Redeemer apparel and on the Lasting Image page of this issue of *Images*.

## Royals Update

It's been a busy, award-winning fall for Redeemer athletes – past and present. Here are just a few highlights from the fall season. For more information on all varsity teams, visit [www.redeemer.ca/athletics](http://www.redeemer.ca/athletics)

### Cross Country

Redeemer was proud to co-host, with Mohawk College, the 2008 Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA) Cross-Country Provincial Championships. Over 125 runners competed, with the Redeemer women's team earning their second consecutive Bronze Medal! Christine DeBrouwer, a fourth-year student from Blenheim, ON also picked up individual honours by finishing in fifth place, qualifying her for Team Ontario. A few weeks later, the entire team also traveled to Kingston to compete at CCAA Nationals. DeBrouwer placed 21st and counted as Ontario's 5th runner, helping them secure the conference Silver Medal at Nationals! Redeemer finished 12th as a team. Alex Van Geest was the highest-placed male runner, finishing 81st out of 134 participants.



From left: Christine De Brouwer, Jody Van Dorp and Angeline Gomes of the OCAA women's bronze medal-winning cross-country team (missing: Tara Joy Ubbens)

### All-Millennium Soccer Teams

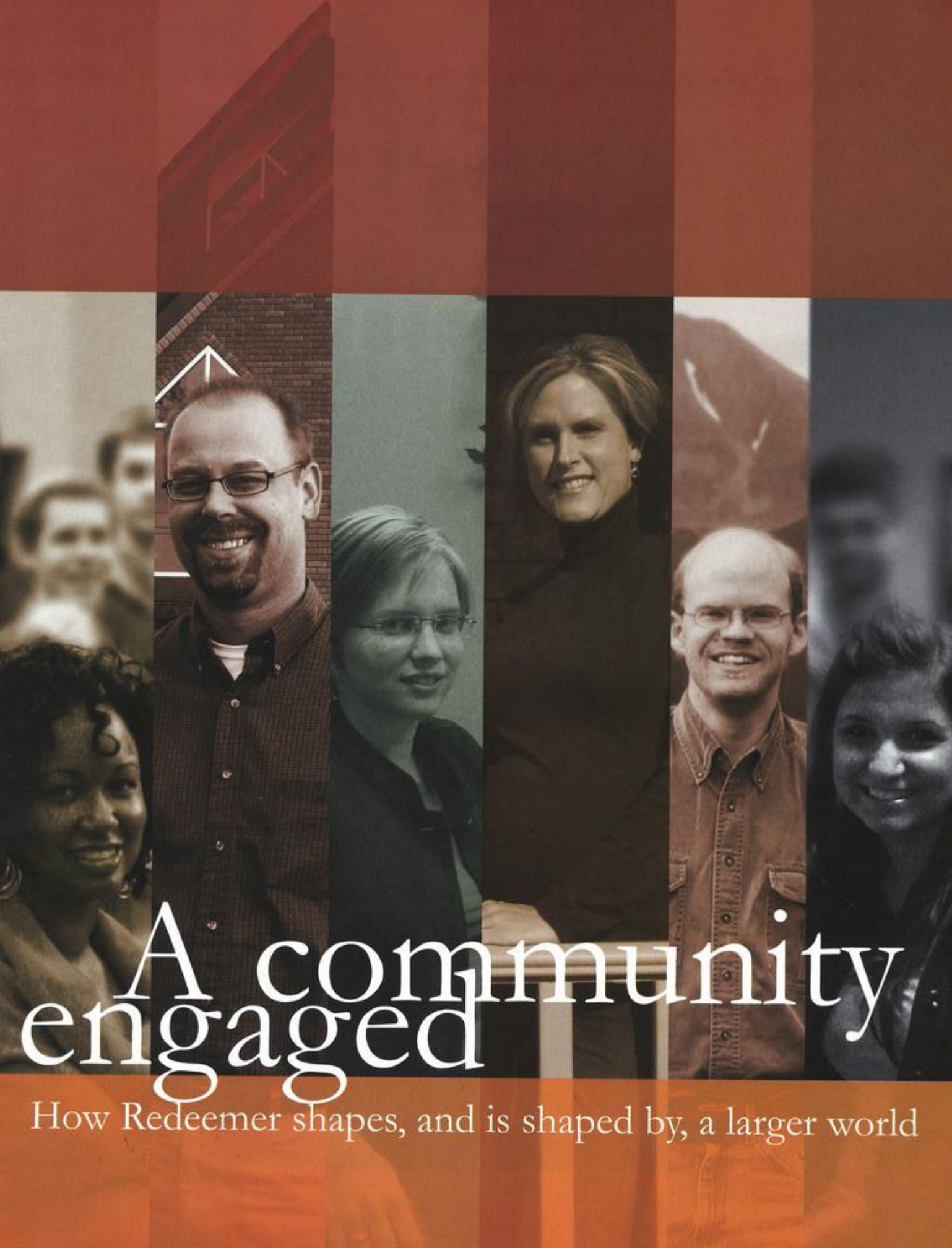


Congratulations to Terry Talsma '91 and Tracy Van Dijk '93 for their selection to the OCAA All-Millennium Teams for Men's and Women's Soccer. Chosen by a committee, the teams were selected from all those who played soccer in the OCAA prior to 2000. These athletes will also be formally recognized at the OCAA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Windsor on April 29, 2009.

### Men's Athlete of the Week

Ryan Talsma (left) was selected as the OCAA Male Athlete of the Week for the week of November 17. A third-year student from Orono, ON, Talsma posted 18 kills, one stuff block and four serving aces to lead the Royals to victory over the Fanshawe Falcons in Men's Volleyball. ■





# A community engaged

How Redeemer shapes, and is shaped by, a larger world



# A community engaged

It's a big world for Redeemer students

1 THE IDEA OF THE UNIVERSITY AS AN IVORY TOWER, ISOLATED FROM THE REALITIES OF "THE REAL WORLD" IS AN out-dated stereotype. Throughout this past year, Redeemer students, staff and faculty were able to witness, and actively participate in, a series of activities and events that demonstrated its vibrant involvement in a community much broader than the Ancaster campus. Sometimes that world came to Redeemer, in the form of speakers, conferences, colloquia and forums. But often, through volunteer service, off-campus studies and other curricular and co-curricular activities, Redeemer students could be found making a difference in the world around them.

## AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

1 The world is their classroom -- Redeemer students are able to take advantage of opportunities to study at different locations across Canada, the United States, Europe, Africa and beyond.

2 Research is an essential activity at Redeemer. This past year, a number of alumni, faculty and students were given grants and other awards to carry out research in a wide range of topics. Some of these funds come from internal sources, but increasingly, students and faculty receive funding from external bodies such as NSERC and SSHERC. This summer, Kristen

Van Sligtrenhorst worked as a research assistant to Dr. Edward Berkelaar, a position funded in part by his NSERC grant

3, 4, 5 Artistic expression is also a key component of the campus, whether that be through music, art or theatre.







**6, 7, 8** Holocaust survivor Eva Olsson, theologian Marva Dawn, and poet Susan McCaslin were just some of the guests who spoke on Redeemer's campus. Students are enriched by the wide range of academics and others who share their insights through poetry readings, colloquia, lecture series and conferences.

## A COMMUNITY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

**9** The Redeemer community was shaken by the death of Student Senate President Craig Vanderveen in July. It was a stark reminder of the reality of sin and death, but also of the love of God and the strength of our Christian academic community.

**10** First-year students get a sense of the lighter side of community-building during Orientation activities.

**11** As a Christian community, students express their faith a number of different ways, such as Hot Spot, student-organized worship in the Rec Centre.

**12** In a year of many individual and team highlights, the Men's Indoor Soccer team captured the OCAA Provincial Championship at a tournament in Vaughn.

## A COMMUNITY IN ACTION

**13** The entire Redeemer community gathered at the end of September to take time to pray for our community, our city and our world as part of a week-long focus on prayer. Although much of the activities were quiet and contemplative, there were also opportunities to give a much more demonstrative response, such as a march against poverty in which Redeemer students took part at Queen's Park.

**14** Redeemer's Green Team led a number of environmental initiatives, both on-campus and off-campus, like this clean-up of the Meadowlands neighbourhood.







15

**15** Almost 100 students spent their February Reading Week involved in some type of mission work. Some went overseas to Mexico or the Netherlands, while others stayed closer to home, serving in a variety of service agencies in Hamilton. Several students were also involved in year-end trips to Nicaragua, India, and a native healing centre in Edmonton.



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**16** Dirk Booy, Vice-President of World Vision, spoke at the second annual Social Justice Conference, part of week of activities



17

that also included worship and a volunteer fair. Redeemer students were challenged to be "beacons in an unjust world," at both the local and international level.

**17** Redeemer became the first Christian university in Canada to field a Model United Nations team. Model UN programs are found across the world, and provide students with a better understanding of the United Nations while building skills in diplomacy and negotiation. One of the highlights for the team was a meeting with

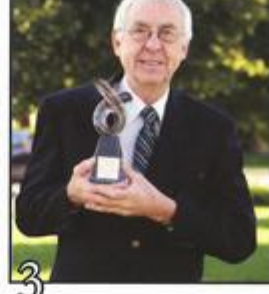
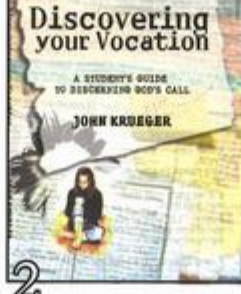
Prime Minister Stephen Harper and MP David Sweet.

**18** 205 students, Redeemer's largest class, graduated in May. As the number of Redeemer alumni grows, so too does their impact in the communities in which they work, live, worship and otherwise serve. As Dr. Edith Humphries, this year's keynote speaker at Commencement pointed out in her address, "Christians are called to join together to a life of service to God, not as individuals, but in community."



18





# A community engaged

## Promoting Redeemer by supporting students

FACULTY, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS ALSO *interact with a much broader world. Not only does their work support and empower students, but it also helps bear witness to the work that is being done at Redeemer to a much wider audience.*

**1** By an Order in Council – and through the efforts of MPP Ted McMeekin – the tax credit for employers who hire co-op students was extended to Redeemer's Co-Op program, putting our students and employers on even ground with those who hire students from publicly-funded institutions.

**2** John Krueger's revised and expanded book *Discovering your Vocation* (4th edition) was published this past year. This award-winning book is a valued resource for both university and high school students who are seeking God's direction in their life.

**3** Dr. John Boersema, Professor of Business, was honoured by the *Hamilton Spectator* with the Publisher's Award for Educators for his work in starting Redeemer's Business Co-Op program. The award was made at a ceremony for the Industry-Education Council, an organization that promotes relationships between

businesses and educational institutions, with which Redeemer has been active for a number of years.

Dr. James Payton, Professor of History, was invited by Nikola Gruevski, the Prime Minister of Macedonia, to participate in a conference that explored the role of faith and religious communities in Eastern Europe.

**4** Our concurrent and consecutive Education programs were given "general accreditation" for a five-year term by the Ontario College of Teachers, thanks in part to the work of the faculty and staff of the Education Department.

**5** In 2007, 61% of new students qualified for an academic scholarship. Through the generosity of its support community, Redeemer was able to disburse \$1.5 million to students in the form of scholarships, bursaries, loans and on-campus student

employment earnings. Here, Scott De Jong '93 of De Jong Enterprises, presents first-year student Danielle Vanderkooy with the Parkview Custom Brokerage Limited Business Entrance Scholarship at the 2007 Business Open House.

**6** In July 2007 Redeemer hosted its largest international conference thus far: 650 delegates from 158 nations were on campus for the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students World Assembly. They were among the 61,000 visitors who were welcomed to the campus for conferences, cultural events and facilities rentals.

The second cycle of academic program reviews has been initiated after the Undergraduate Program Review Audit Committee (UPRAC) approved the University's revised policies on academic reviews, which includes Redeemer's integrally Christian version of university learning expectations.





# A community engaged

## The impact of Redeemer alumni



Jennifer Adema, '00 (English)  
Alumni Association Board Member  
Burlington, ON

REDEEMER FOSTERED A DEEP respect for the many facets of life through its superb standards of academic excellence, thoroughly equipping and enabling me to serve in various communities after graduation.

This subsequently affected my Christ-centred worldview, a worldview undoubtedly shared by many of my fellow alumni. With thanks to the influence of the professors that I was blessed to study under, I now have the sight - and insight - to see and interact with the people around me in a Christ-inspired manner.

EXPERIENCES IN REDEEMER'S community through my undergraduate years have shaped my current vocational service in two ways. First, I was exposed to a diversity of thought that refined my listening and sifting and winnowing skills. I continue to hone these skills on a daily basis as I conduct scientific research as a federal public servant. Second, I appreciated the integrity of the academic staff and professors and the dignity they accorded their students. I try to reflect the same respect to my current students, both in the classroom and in the field.



Brian Aukema, '96  
(Biology)  
Research  
Scientist,  
Canadian Forest  
Service, Natural  
Resources Canada  
&  
Assistant  
Professor (Adj.),  
University of  
Northern British  
Columbia  
Prince George, BC

### PRIOR TO COMING TO REDEEMER

I had spent the bulk of my life with Dutch Reformed folk who basically looked like me (perhaps a little better) and thought like me (perhaps a little deeper). During my first year at Redeemer I landed in a dorm with a Baptist roommate with whom I had countless theological discussions, some cool and some heated, all of which culminated in a deep and meaningful friendship. Eventually my fears that he would immerse me in my sleep subsided and I learned, by the grace of God, to interact cordially and charitably with those with whom I strongly disagreed. Not only am I no longer intimidated by those who think differently than I do, I am generally open to what God might teach me through them.



Bill DeJong, '93  
(History and  
Sociology)  
Pastor,  
Cornerstone  
Canadian  
Reformed  
Church  
Hamilton, ON



**REDEEMER IS PROUD ITS 3000+ ALUMNI WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN 30 COUNTRIES around the world.** Of those, more than 450 graduates have been accepted to graduate and second-degree programs at prestigious institutions across Canada, the US, Europe and beyond. And Redeemer graduates work in a wide range of businesses, social service agencies, public institutions and host of different ministries.

*There are tangible, often personal benefits that one receives from a university education. But developing those God-given gifts is not something done for purely personal gain. Our students have reaped benefits from the communities that have supported Redeemer through prayer, financial gifts and in many other ways. In turn, Redeemer alumni become engaged in the communities where God has called them after graduation, being salt and light to a world that desperately needs the transformative power of Christ.*

#### MY YEARS OF STUDY AT

Redeemer were marked by many great learning experiences. The leadership in the music department consistently challenged me and built my musical confidence. But what I will never forget is the consistent support I received from the faculty, administration and staff. Many opportunities were given me to use and further develop my gifts and talents. As a soloist, private vocal teacher and choral director, I now work and perform in many different communities; the skills and self-confidence I developed during my studies have proven invaluable, no matter where God takes me and my music.



Sonia Reid, '01  
(Music)  
Soloist, Teacher,  
Choral Director  
Hamilton, ON

#### THE YEARS I SPENT AT REDEEMER

University College were very enjoyable and memorable. I appreciated how the professors took a sincere and genuine interest in the academic and personal development of my fellow classmates and me. In addition, I valued my professors' emphasis on developing an awareness of the peripheral impact of one's decisions and actions. This has been instrumental in shaping my approach to the work I do with clients who are involved in disputes with business partners, family members, friends and neighbours. In counseling these individuals, an awareness of their actions and decisions is crucial in seeking a just resolution of their disputes.



Maria  
Vanderspek, '03  
(Business)  
Junior Associate  
Lawyer, Cline,  
Backus,  
Nightingale,  
McArthur LLP  
Simcoe, ON



Teresa Zsuffa, '08 (English)  
Community Relations  
Coordinator and Instructor  
Hamilton, ON

#### WORKING FOR THE HAMILTON

Literacy Council has been a perfect transition from Redeemer into the broader community. Although I've struggled with the adjustment of no longer being a student, I've realized that the kind of community Redeemer offers doesn't have to end with graduation. I've seen a community-development mentality adopted by other Hamiltonians, including Redeemer alumni. They demonstrate -- through their leadership, service and willingness to share their gifts -- a desire to work together to build a better city for all. Redeemer is a great community; I'm thankful for the opportunity to try to build the same off-campus.





**REDEEMER**  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

777 Garner Road East, Ancaster ON L9K 1J4  
T. 905.648.2131 | F. 905.648.2134 | [www.redeemer.ca](http://www.redeemer.ca)



## Worldview conference explores role of university

Redeemer University College, The Paideia Centre for Public Theology and Kuyper's Café are pleased to sponsor *Mission, Worldview and the Christian University: Living at the Crossroads*, a multi-disciplinary conference that will take place on Redeemer's campus from January 7-10, 2009.

Using Mike Goheen and Craig Bartholomew's *Living at the Crossroads: An Introduction to Christian Worldview* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008) as a

launching pad, this conference explores the strategic interface of mission, worldview and the Christian university with its different subject areas today.

Ten keynote addresses will be given by internationally known speakers (below) from Europe, the USA and Canada. Speakers will also lead seminars on topics that highlight their particular discipline. For more information on the Conference, including registration, please visit [www.redeemer.ca/crossroads](http://www.redeemer.ca/crossroads). ■

**CRAIG BARTHOLOMEW** is the H. Evan Runner Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Religion and Theology at Redeemer University College.

**CALVIN B. "CAL" DEWITT** is Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He developed the Augsburg Institute as its Director and President from 1979 to 2005 and is also President of the Academy of Evangelical Scientists and Ethicists.

**C. STEPHEN EVANS** is currently University Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Baylor University. His published works focus on Kierkegaard and the philosophy of religion and psychology. His most recent book is *Kierkegaard's Ethic of Love: Divine Commands and Moral Obligations*.

**GERRIT GLAS** holds two chairs at Leiden University in Reformational Philosophy and Psychiatry. His work illustrates the approaches of Dooyeweerd and Vollenhoven in philosophy of psychiatry, anxiety research, ethics, and philosophical anthropology.

**ANDREW GODDARD** is a speaker and writer on Christian Ethics. He currently teaches ethics at Trinity Theological College, helping establish the Centre for Bible and Society.

**MICHAEL GOHEEN** is Geneva Professor of Worldview and Religions Studies at Trinity Western University, Teaching Fellow in Mission and World Christianity at Regent College, and Minister of Preaching at New West Christian Reformed Church, Burnaby, B.C.

**RAY PENNING**s is Senior Fellow and Director of Research at Cardus and is one of Canada's top authorities in industrial relations. He has recently published *Church and Caesar: A Legal Primer for Office-Bearers* and contributed several chapters in *Living for God's Glory: An Introduction to Calvinism*.

**CALVIN SEERVELD** is professor emeritus of philosophical aesthetics at the graduate Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto.

**GIDEON STRAUSS** teaches philosophy at Redeemer University College. He is considered one of the leading contemporary exponents of the neocalvinist vision.

**SUSAN VANZANTEN** is Director of the Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development, and Professor of English at Seattle Pacific University.



## How do we live out our confessions?

Dr. Gideon Strauss, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and Research and Education Director of the Christian Labour Association of Canada, presented this year's Bernard Zylstra Lectures on the theme "Jesus and me...and Everything." In the three lectures he gave that day, Dr. Strauss explored the implications of Jesus' claim to be "the way, the truth and the life" in all areas of life. Drawing on his own experiences growing up in South Africa as an opponent of apartheid, his conversion to Christianity and his subsequent embrace of an all-encompassing worldview, Dr. Strauss challenged students to be true followers of Jesus, not just in their personal walk of faith, but also in their studies and throughout all areas of life.

The Zylstra Lectures were established in honour of the late Dr. Bernard Zylstra, who instrumental in the establishment of the Institute of Christian Studies and influenced many in Reformed higher education circles. Dr. Strauss is also the Editor of *Comment*, the journal of Cardus (formerly known as the Work Research Foundation), which co-sponsored the 2008 Zylstra Lectures. ■



# New books from Redeemer faculty

If the old adage "publish or perish" is true, then Redeemer's faculty is very much alive. Over the last few months, three faculty members have seen books that they have authored reach publication.

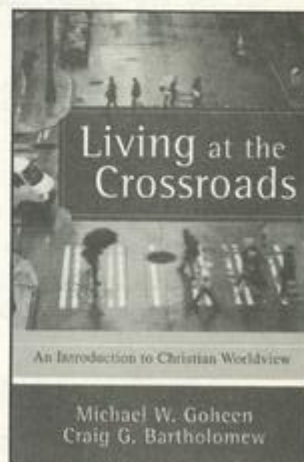
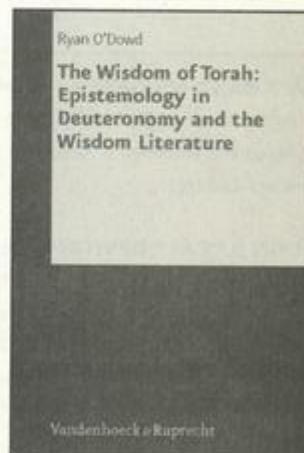
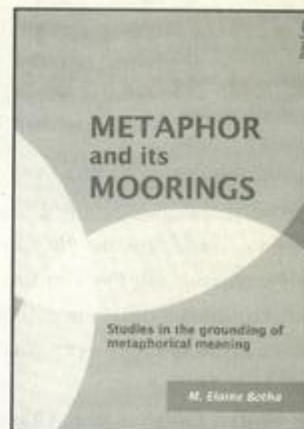
Dr. M. Elaine Botha, Professor of Philosophy, Emerita, has written a book that embodies her many years of research into the role of metaphor in religion, science and everyday cognition. *Metaphor and its Moorings: Studies in the Grounding of Metaphorical Meaning* (Bern: Peter Lang, 2007), is in part "a religious quest to understand how one traces...religious convictions in scientific theorizing." Using 19th century English chemist and physicist Michael Faraday as a case study, Dr. Botha argues that all scientific observation is impregnated with theoretical convictions and that metaphors play a decisive role in the models that are developed to understand reality. The book was recently launched at the Third International Conference on Language, Metaphor and Thought in Fortaleza, Brazil, where Dr. Botha also presented a paper on "Why Metaphor Matters in Education."

*The Wisdom of Torah: Epistemology in Deuteronomy and the Wisdom Literature* (Göttingen, Germany: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2008) is based on the doctoral dissertation of Dr. Ryan O'Dowd, Assistant Professor of Religion and Theology. In his book, O'Dowd examines the Hebrew Bible - the legal and wisdom writings in particular - looking for evidence of an implicit epistemology (theory of knowledge) in the ancient Hebraic religion and worldview. He argues that the

ancient Hebrews understood knowledge as an integral part of their mythical, religious and ethical worldview. He also shows how this stands in stark contrast with the developing Greek epistemology of the ancient world and the modern western world in general.

Dr. Craig G. Bartholomew, H. Evan Runner Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Religion & Theology, has again joined former Redeemer faculty member Dr. Michael W. Goheen, this time to present an engaging introduction to Christian worldview. *Living at the Crossroads* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009) explores how Christians can live faithfully at the crossroads of Scripture and postmodern culture. The book, written for students and laypeople, explores the implications of living out such a worldview in a number of key areas, such as education, scholarship, economics, politics, and church. Drs. Bartholomew and Goheen previously co-authored *The Drama of Scripture*.

Dr. Jacob Ellens, Vice President (Academic), notes the similarities, and significance, of these publications: "Although these books cover three distinct disciplines: philosophy, Biblical studies and Christian worldview, they share one common theme. All reflect the commitment of the authors, and of Redeemer University College, that insights, theories and words themselves are grounded in religious assumptions and commitments that either glorify God or disdain Him." ■





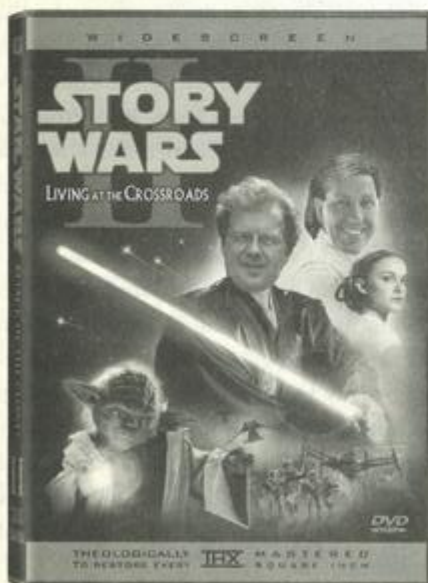


Associate Professor of Theatre Arts and Communication Ray Louter (left) and Dr. Christiaan Teeuwesen, Professor of Music each won a bag of apples by having the fastest time in the log sawing contest at this year's Ancaster Fair. This year marks the end of the Fair at its current location, immediately to the west of Redeemer's campus. The Ancaster Agricultural Society is moving the fairgrounds to a new location at the corner of Wilson Street (Highway 53) and Trinity Road (Highway 52). The annual Fair has been a highlight for students since Redeemer moved to its Ancaster campus in 1986.



Congratulations to Dr. Dirk Windhorst, Assistant Professor of Education on the successful defense of his doctoral thesis at Brock University this fall. The title of his dissertation is *Educating for love of wisdom: John Dewey and Simone Weil*. Dr. Windhorst describes his thesis as "a Reformational Christian imagining a dialectical engagement between an American secular pragmatist and a French Christian Platonist on how to educate for a love of wisdom."

Completing a Ph.D. is a challenge at the best of times, but even more so when working as a full-time faculty member. Dr. Windhorst is quick to recognize those who helped him reach this milestone: "I am thankful to God for the support I have received from family and friends, from an excellent supervisor, and from my colleagues here at Redeemer. I went into my defense knowing that many were praying for me and left knowing that those prayers had been answered."



*Living at the Crossroads* was launched at an on-campus event on November 28. Kuyper's Café, a student worldview group, came up with a series of posters that took a lighthearted approach to promoting the event.

Kuyper's Café was formed out of a passion in students to deepen their understanding of the Christian worldview and how that can be worked out in everyday lives. It is named after Abraham Kuyper, the 19th century neo-Calvinist who became Prime Minister of the Netherlands, and counts a good-humoured Dr. Bartholomew as one of its faculty mentors.





# Remembering Theo Plantinga

A student, colleague and friend reflects on late professor's contributions to Redeemer

*C*n a beautiful summer day in July, I was deeply saddened to learn that Theo Plantinga had suddenly died. For the last several years, I had known him as a colleague. But at the news of his passing, my thoughts went back to a different time, and I am grateful for the opportunity to speak of him at both a chapel service and a special evening of commemoration.

Years before I taught here, I was a student at the Redeemer College of the 1980's, and Dr Theodore Plantinga, Professor of Philosophy, looms large in those memories. In the early days, Redeemer had a small faculty – eleven men taught every course that was offered. They also did everything else. In my first year Professor Plantinga was the Registrar, advising which courses I should take – and then teaching two of them. I ended up with a philosophy minor – I narrowly escaped being a philosophy major. He also encouraged me to think that, despite the evidence of the faculty teaching

me, women could go to graduate school.

Prof. Plantinga was also a key person in Redeemer's decision-making process. The full faculty held regular meetings, at which decisions about the future of the institution were made. But at that time, most faculty car-pooled to work: One group of six came from the West Mountain, the other three from Dundas. And the six from the mountain were regularly frustrated when, the morning after a faculty meeting, the car from Dundas would pull up and Professors Plantinga and Cooper would have reopened the discussions on the drive in! (They made Mr. Savage, the first librarian, drive while they talked; he moved to Prince Edward Island shortly afterwards....)

Prof. Plantinga encouraged students to learn, both in and out of class. Disappointed that there was no real bookstore on the Beach Strip campus, he began to sell books himself, setting up once a week with boxes of used paperbacks. I still regu-

larly take a classic from my bookcase and realize where it came from – an experience I imagine I share with many of my contemporaries.

Some of those contemporaries attended a chapel service at the beginning of this academic year designed by Chaplain Syd Hielema as a time both to welcome new students, and to bid farewell to Professor Plantinga. The service included a meditation by Dr Payton, a long time colleague and friend. A few weeks later, alumni, friends and supporters of Redeemer were able to join with his wife, Janet, and other family members for an evening of remembering. Colleagues shared memories of the many ways in which Theo Plantinga was involved in this institution, and everyone enjoyed the stories which showed his characteristic individuality. Redeemer is less colourful now, and his absence is still mourned. ■

*Helen Vreugdenhil '87 is a Sessional Assistant Professor in Redeemer's History Department.*



# Alumni Board begins new season

The Alumni Board has begun its new season with renewed energy and purpose. We are excited to welcome Valerie Louter '95 as Director of the Alumni Association and to explore a refocused vision for the Association as embodied in our new mission statement: Building Relationships that Foster Community.

Discussions with Alumni as well as responses to the survey conducted in the spring indicate that many Alumni desire to maintain their relationship with Redeemer University College, not only by connecting with former classmates, but also by helping current students and faculty and by networking with other Alumni in similar professions. In order to help Alumni build those relationships, the

Board will be launching Circle of Excellence, a mentoring program which links Alumni with current students, as well as improving communication with and among Alumni.

There will be two components to the Circle of Excellence: first, an e-mail based directory of Alumni mentors who are willing to answer students' questions on topics ranging from career preparation and interview skills to the "extra-curricular" opportunities available in a particular geographic area; and second, a discipline-specific gathering of Alumni and students that provides an opportunity for career counselling as well as professional networking. The Board hopes to host the first Circle of Excellence event in February with the Busi-

ness Department and will be expanding to other disciplines in the near future. If you are willing to serve as an Alumni mentor, either by e-mail or at a Circle of Excellence event, please contact Val Louter.

The Alumni Association will soon be launching a monthly e-newsletter, providing timely information on sports, cultural events and other news from Redeemer University College. If you are interested in receiving this type of communication, contact the Alumni Office or check out the Alumni website for further information. We would love to stay connected with you! ■

*Sharon Vander Meulen '89*  
Alumni Association Board President

## Building relationships with Alumni

Valerie Louter takes over as Director of Association

Valerie Louter '95 joined Redeemer University College's Advancement team as Development Director, Alumni on August 11, 2008. Valerie says, "When I saw the posting for this position, I knew it was the job for me. The interview process was enjoyable – it seemed to me as if God was just laying this opportunity at my feet and I took it."

After graduating from Redeemer in 1995 with an English major, Valerie decided to work for a large bookstore, just until she figured out what to do with her life. After 5 years of learning and growth in the retail world, she realized that she could no longer be motivated by a store's sales goal for the week. She followed her heart and made a move to the not-for-profit sector, joining a community-based program assisting adults with basic literacy skills. "At the Hamilton Literacy

Council I wore many hats over a period of time – Office Manager, Community Relations Coordinator, Small Group Instructor and Intake Assessor. I'm so thankful for all the learning opportunities provided to me during my time with this organization."

Desiring to take on new challenges once more, Valerie is happy to be "back home" at Redeemer, continuing her participation in a community she has felt drawn to since her student years. She lives in Hamilton and takes pleasure in good books, tasty food, and spending time with family and friends.

Valerie is excited to continue building Redeemer's relationship with Alumni, discovering where and how former students are impacting our world. "I want to keep you (Alumni) informed. I look forward to hearing from you!" ■





## Sign up for Alumni eNews

The Alumni Office is launching an eNewsletter to keep you informed of concerts, varsity games, alumni programs, faculty colloquia and more. Confirm your email address by sending a quick email to [alumni@redeemer.ca](mailto:alumni@redeemer.ca). The newsletter will also have the option to unsubscribe.

## Stay Connected with Facebook

Join over 600 alumni who are part of the Redeemer University College Alumni group at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

## Alumni Association awards recognize student leadership

Alumni Association Board President Sharon Vander Meulen '89 chats with Peter Kranenburg, recipient of the Alumni Leadership Award for the 2008-09 academic year. Peter is a fourth-year student, completing an honours degree in Psychology and a major in Youth Ministry. He is busy with many extra-curricular activities at Redeemer: he is an RA, helps with chapel, runs cross-country, is leading a mission trip to Mexico, and is a member of the Academic Senate. This summer, Peter participated in the Sea to Sea Bike tour to raise awareness of and funds for poverty (see p. 9).

The Alumni Association also awarded Alumni Leadership Bursaries (which are needs-based) to two students. All of these awards are funded by gifts that alumni have made through the Redeemer Alumni Association Student Awards Program (RAASAP). Thank you for supporting this initiative, and we hope that your continued generosity will allow us to award even more worthy students in the years to come.



## Fore!

### Ace highlights Tournament

Eleven enthusiastic foursomes took part in the 13th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament on September 20, 2008. Under sunny skies, the Knollwood Club was the place to be for a great day of golf.



The winning team was (l-r) Josh McDougall-Cranston, Paolo Carinci, Chris Cranston, and Marcel Beauchesne with a score of -11. In second place were Hugh Cook, John Byl, and Rob Kippers at -10, and the Vellinga team finished third at -9.



JD Alkema (middle) won the Closest to the Pin contest and Mike Oegema (right) had the Longest Drive. The highlight of the day however came from Harry Blyleven, who recorded a hole-in-one on the 11th hole!

For next year's tournament, plans are underway to increase participation (ladies...we need more representation) and possibly change the format. We'd also like to end the day with a great dinner together. Stay tuned. If you're interested in helping to plan next year's event, contact Valerie Louter at [vlouter@redeemer.ca](mailto:vlouter@redeemer.ca) or call 905-648-2131 ext. 3244.





## Beauty and Pain

Isobelle Gunn's music reflects juxtapositions on a number of levels

Isobelle Gunn is a Canadian folk trio comprised of Lara Schat-Zeyl, '94, her husband, Jeremy Zeyl, 'x01 and his sister, Calvin College graduate Leanna Zeyl. They began singing together in the spring of 2006 and their award-winning debut EP was released a year later.

Lara explains the trio's intriguing name: "Isobelle Gunn was a historic Scottish-Canadian woman who disguised herself as a man in order to work in a man's world. We often sing from different voices – male and female, and we are beginning to disguise ourselves in different narrators for each song. The sound of the name Isobelle Gunn suggests a contrast between beauty and pain. This juxtaposition reflects the vision of our writing; singing of the reality of hope, beauty and pain through the lens of redemption."

Working together as family means sharing ideas on a regular basis. On a more relational level, Lara explains the commitment and blessing of working with family: "We believe that we are not are own and that we've been called to create and perform music together and to live in community. When one person is weak the other two offer incredible and needed support."

Isobelle Gunn has just started working again with Douglas Romanow, who produced their 5-song EP. Jeremy Zeyl, on behalf of the group, was awarded a Creation of New Work Grant from the Ontario Arts Council to write a proposed 12-song album which they hope to release in 2009. Stay tuned to [www.myspace.com/isobellegunn](http://www.myspace.com/isobellegunn) for details or e-mail the band at [jaspermusic@hotmail.com](mailto:jaspermusic@hotmail.com). ■

*I put a nail in your hand and pull it out  
And then begin to doubt that it was  
ever there at all.  
You forgive; I forget, what a mess  
Bursting in my chest like all times  
I've done before  
I screamed out loud  
I want out!  
I cut you down  
Thorns in your crown;  
little blood stained town  
Little blood stained town  
(excerpt from Blood Stained Town)*

From left to right: Lara Schat-Zeyl, Jeremy Zeyl, and Leanna Zeyl

### Awards for "Emily", a song from Isobelle Gunn's first EP

- Runner up in the Song of the Year (Nashville) and the Durango Song Contest (California).
- Canadian top 12 in the Mountain Stage New Song Contest (International)
- Honourable Mention Winner, 2007 International Songwriting Competition (Nashville) out of over 15,000 entrants in over 100 countries - "Emily" placed in the Folk/Singer-songwriter category.
- Great Lakes Songwriting Competition, Honourable Mention, Fall 2008

## Marisa Shines On



This metal sculpture, by Floyd Elzinga, hangs in the garden of Mendel's back yard

A full house celebrated Marisa VanderVeen's life through story and song at a benefit concert featuring her family and friends this past October.

The goal of the evening was to raise \$25,000 to establish the Marisa VanderVeen Scholarship, in memory of Marisa, a Music and Physical Education

alumna (1997) of Redeemer who passed away in December 2007. The fundraising goal was not only met – it topped \$30,000. The annual award will be given to a Redeemer University College student who is using her/his gifts in music and physical education to further God's kingdom. Marisa VanderVeen shines on indeed. ■



## Personal Touch

Lori-Anne and **Stephen Janssen '03** are the happy parents of Nathan Lucas Janssen, born February 12, 2008. Stephen is teaching grade 8 at Knox Christian School in Bowmanville and is currently nearing the completion of a Masters of Education at Dordt College. [s\\_janssen2000@yahoo.com](mailto:s_janssen2000@yahoo.com)

**Josh and Sarah ('99) Braam de Boer** are pleased to announce the birth of Aaron Willem on April 28, 2008. Sarah enjoys her time off work with Aaron and Isaac (2), and the family prays fervently for Josh's safe return from his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. [jsdeboer@sympatico.ca](mailto:jsdeboer@sympatico.ca)

### Want to contribute to Personal Touch?

Alumni are encouraged to forward their news of interest for publication in the Personal Touch column. Marriages, births, job changes, academic accomplishments — whatever your friends and former classmates might be interested in. Please send an email to [alumnioffice@redeemer.ca](mailto:alumnioffice@redeemer.ca), or contribute through the on-line form at [www.redeemer.ca/alumni](http://www.redeemer.ca/alumni)

Did you get your  
**Yearbook?**  
*It's not too late!*



A limited number of yearbooks from past years are available for sale.

- 02/03 to 07/08 books: \$30
- all earlier years: \$20
- (additional \$5 for shipping)

Great Christmas gift idea!

To reserve yours, contact  
[akraan@redeemer.ca](mailto:akraan@redeemer.ca)

Please note:  
no books are available for 04/04, 05/05, 06/06, 07/07, or 08/08.



## International Spotlight

**Naomi Biesheuvel, '03** is the Advanced Managing Editor of [StudioClassroom.com](http://StudioClassroom.com) for Overseas Radio & Television in Taipei, Taiwan.

On August 15, *Advanced* magazine won the 2008 Golden Tripod Best Language Learning Media Award. The Golden Tripod Award is Taiwan's most prestigious award for publications. Managing Editor Naomi Biesheuvel accepted the award on behalf of *Advanced*, giving her remarks in Chinese.

ORTV develops television, radio and film to promote the gospel throughout the world through a music ministry and several English-language teaching programs.

Besides editing the magazine and hosting *Advanced* radio, Naomi also teaches English at various businesses and runs an English-language Bible Study for 400-500 students.

On August 15, *Advanced* magazine won the 2008 Golden Tripod Best Language Learning Media Award. The Golden Tripod Award is Taiwan's most prestigious award for publications. Managing Editor Naomi Biesheuvel accepted the award on behalf of .

But life in Taiwan is not all work: "When I'm not working, I explore the many amazing places to see on this island. It seems that every little town has its own special charm! I also have fun bicycling and hiking, trying new restaurants (the dumplings and bubble milk tea are great, but I don't recommend stinky tofu) and volunteering at a local orphanage. When I get homesick, I'll go see a movie, and I almost feel like I'm back in Canada.

"I attend a bilingual [church] service that is associated with the ORTV English Bible Study. I've been very challenged by it. In the small group I lead, we have everyone from veterans to "baby" Christians. Over the past year, four of my friends there have been baptized! It's an honour to be a part of [this group]." ■



LASTING IMAGE



Students, as well as parents, friends, and alumni now have the opportunity to purchase items from the new Royals Retail Clothing Line. Items available include hoodies, sweat pants, hats, T-shirts, long sleeve shirts, yoga pants and toques and are available in men's and women's sizes. Orders can be placed through the Redeemer Campus Bookstore or the Athletic Department. You can also place an order by calling 905.648.2139 ext. 4267 or visiting [www.redeemer.ca/athletics](http://www.redeemer.ca/athletics)



# Students Give Redeemer Another



For the second consecutive year, Redeemer University College has earned an "A" in Overall Student Satisfaction in *The Globe & Mail's* University Report Card, released on October 23, 2008.

The newspaper's seventh annual survey of student satisfaction graded 55 universities on a number of key criteria by surveying 43,400 Canadian university students about their experiences.

## Redeemer scored well in a number of key areas:

Quality of education	A+
Student-Faculty interaction	A+
Campus atmosphere	A+
Class sizes	A+
Quality of teaching	A
Student residences	A
Building and facilities	A
Ease of course registration	A-
Extracurricular activities	A-

From last year to this year, students ranked Redeemer higher in the vast majority of the categories and our scores remained the same in the remainder. We remain committed to delivering the kind of experience that students are seeking, one from which they can grow not only academically, but also personally and spiritually.

To view the entire report, visit [www.globecampus.ca](http://www.globecampus.ca). To learn more about Redeemer, and why students are so pleased with their experience here, visit [www.redeemer.ca](http://www.redeemer.ca).